

Most of the Mains questions asked in UPSC GS 1, 2 and 3 are based on the articles/editorials that appear in newspapers.

No particular article is sufficient enough to answer a question. However, the understanding one develops by going through various articles, the important points that one filters out from the articles comes handy while answering the questions.

However, for a candidate, particularly freshers, it becomes difficult to select important articles from newspapers and further filtering out the important points that become even more difficult due to lack of experience. Even those with some experience, don't have much time to filter out the relevant points from the articles.

This can be illustrated as follows:

Consider this question asked in UPSC Mains in 2018 in GS Paper 3:

“What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low income trap?”

To answer this question we need to read articles that appeared in newspaper on this topic. For example, following are the articles that appeared on this topic recently:

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/fields-of-concern/article25126164.ece>

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/why-the-msp-regime-isnt-clicking/.earticle23762915ce>

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-political-ploy/article24354366.ece> , etc.

The understanding developed from reading above articles , concrete points & important facts mentioned in the articles and journals can be quite useful to answer such questions.

So, an aspirant needs to go through articles every day, make notes of them, and keep revising them and use them while doing the answer writing practice. But it will require experience and time.

Thus, We aim to provide you with ready-made simplified form of articles and their very precise summaries as well , so that the crux of any article can easily be absorbed by you.

Here's an illustration of how we can help you.

Consider this article that appeared in The Hindu:

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-shape-of-an-urban-employment-guarantee/article26667360.ece>

It consists of more than 1000 words. Further, it's not written in a reader friendly manner.

Now, look at this edited version of the article in a simplified form:

The shape of an urban employment guarantee

Category: GS 3 (Economy)

Current event that inspired this article:

India is in the midst of a massive jobs crisis. The unemployment rate has reached a 45-year high (6.1%) in 2017-18.

What is the job crisis the article talks about?

It talks about three aspects of job crisis in urban areas which are as follows:

- **CITIES & TOWNS:** The unemployment problem is especially aggravated in India's cities and towns.
- **LOW WAGES & PRECARIETY (insecure employment and income):** Aside from unemployment, low wages and precarity continue to be widespread.
- **INFORMAL SECTOR:** In urban India the majority of the population continues to work in the informal sector.

It says that India's towns have been ignored by the Government in the following ways:

ENGINES OF GROWTH: Both State and Central governments tend to treat towns as "engines of growth" for the economy rather than spaces where thousands toil to make a living.

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES: Programmes such as the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (1997) that included an urban wage employment component have made way for those focussed on skilling and entrepreneurship.

URBAN PROGRAMMES: National-level urban programmes such as the Smart Cities Mission and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) only benefit only a few towns.

URBAN LOCAL BODIES: Most ULBs (urban local bodies) are struggling to carry out basic functions because of a lack of financial and human capacity. Further, with untrammelled urbanisation, they are facing more challenges due to the degradation of urban ecological commons.

It suggests the following solutions to the urban unemployment problem:

- ❖ **SUSTAINIBILITY:** We need new ways to promote the sustainable development of India's small and medium towns.
- ❖ **EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES:** It is worthwhile considering to introduce an employment guarantee programme in urban areas. Along with addressing the concerns of underemployment and unemployment, such a programme can bring in much-needed public investment in towns.
- ❖ **MADHYA PRADESH EXAMPLE:** In Madhya Pradesh, the new State government has launched the "Yuva Swabhiman Yojana" which provides employment for both skilled and unskilled workers among urban youth. Such programmes can be emulated by other States as well.
- ❖ **LOCAL BODIES FUNDS:** ULB should receive funds from the Centre and the State at the beginning of each financial year so that funds are available locally. Wages would be disbursed in a decentralised manner at the local ULB.
- ❖ **MGNERGA:** Urban employment programme should not come at the expense of MGNREGA but rather the two should go hand-in-hand.
- ❖ **PUBLIC WORKS:** Urban informal workers with limited formal education can undertake standard public works such as building and maintenance of roads, footpaths and bridges for a guaranteed 100 days in a year, at ₹500 a day.
- ❖ **GREEN JOBS:** "Green jobs" can be provided which include the creation, restoration/rejuvenation, and maintenance of urban commons such as green spaces and parks, forested or woody areas, degraded or waste land, and water bodies.
- ❖ **CARE JOBS:** Further, a set of jobs that will cater to the "care deficit" in towns by providing child-care as well as care for the elderly and the disabled to the urban working class should be included.
- ❖ **ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS:** Unemployed youth with higher education can assist administrative functions in municipal offices, government schools, or public health centres, and for the monitoring, measurement, or evaluation of environmental parameters.

❖ **TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY:** Strong transparency and accountability structures — disclosure of information, periodic social audits, public hearing, timely grievance redressal for workers should be employed.

The author makes the following conclusion about urban employment:

An urban employment guarantee programme not only improves incomes of workers but also has multiplier effects on the economy. Hence, the time is ripe for an employment guarantee programme in urban India.

One would find the above edited version quite simple to read and understand.

Now, look at the precise summary of this article, which comes handy while doing revision:

Let's
Recap

The unemployment rate has reached a 45-year high (6.1%) in 2017-18.

Dimensions of urban unemployment:

- Unemployment mainly in cities and towns.
- Low wages and precarity is widespread.
- Majority of the urban population in informal sector.

Urban areas have been ignored:

- Towns are treated as “engines of growth” rather than job spaces.
- Govt job schemes such as SJSRY have ignored the unskilled.
- Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT benefit only a few towns.
- Urban local bodies lack financial and human capacity.

Addressing urban unemployment

- Introduce an **employment guarantee programme** in urban areas.
- Madhya Pradesh’s “**Yuva Swabhiman Yojana**” can be emulated by other States.
- Urban Local Bodies should receive timely and adequate **funds**.
- Urban employment programme and **MGNREGA** should go hand-in-hand.

- “**Green jobs**” can be provided such as creation of green spaces and parks.
- Child-**care**, elderly care and the disabled care jobs can be provided.
- Unemployed with higher education can assist **administrative functions**.
- Strong **transparency and accountability** structures should be employed.

Thus, a complex article has been made very easy to grasp and memorize which will immensely help while writing answers.

How to use this article in answer writing?

Suppose, if you have to answer a question like this:

Urban employment programme will not only improve worker incomes but also have multiplier effects on the economy. Discuss.

This question can be answered as follows to obtain maximum marks:

Step 1: Write a basic introduction on employment. You can use some data in your introduction.

For example,

NSSO 2017-18 shows that as unemployment rates increased, labour force participation rates for all ages, fell sharply from 43% in 2004 to 37% in 2017-18.

Step 2: Now, come to urban unemployment. Write down the areas in which urban employment is presently available in India.

For example:

- ✚ Construction
- ✚ Manufacturing
- ✚ Service sector, etc.

Elaborate a bit.

Step 3: Mention few issues related with urban unemployment:

For example:

- ✚ Large workforce in informal sector
- ✚ Lack of unskilled jobs
- ✚ Inadequate funds with local bodies
- ✚ Uncertainty of jobs
- ✚ Low wages, etc

Elaborate a bit.

Step 4: Suggest ways to improve urban employment in India.

For example,

- ✚ Green jobs
- ✚ Care job
- ✚ Administrative assistance jobs
- ✚ Public work maintenance job, etc

Elaborate a bit.

Step 5: Explain how urban employment opportunities will help people.

- ✚ Increased incomes
- ✚ Access to education
- ✚ Access to health services
- ✚ Sanitation, etc

Elaborate a bit.

Step 6: Suggest how urban employment will now only benefit workers but also impact the overall economy in a positive way.

- ✚ Consumption will increase
- ✚ Savings will increase
- ✚ Improved health will lead to better workforce
- ✚ Improved education will enhance demographic dividend, etc.

Step 7: Make a comparison with urban employment in other countries.

For example,

- ✚ China's labor force was one of the most important factors contributing to the country's unparalleled economic development over the past decades.
- ✚ China is striving to create more than 50 million new jobs in urban areas over the five years to 2020. It also aims to hold the urban registered unemployment rate below 5 percent

Step 8: Suggest the steps Indian govt or state govt are taking to address urban unemployment.

For example,

- ✚ Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
- ✚ Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)
- ✚ Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana
- ✚ Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), etc.

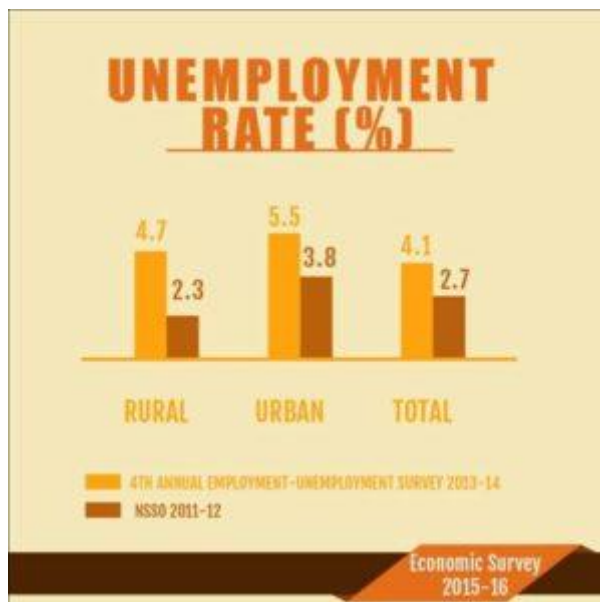
Step 9: Write an optimistic conclusion.

For example,

India is about to become the fifth largest economy in the world. An urban employment guarantee programme will not only improve incomes of workers but will also have multiplier effects on the economy.

Step 10: Can draw a diagram/flowchart showing urban employment trends.

For example,



Thus, we will help you not only develop understanding on a current topic important for Mains, help absorb essential arguments, facts and data but at the same time help deepen your knowledge and learn proper answer writing technique to obtain maximum marks in exam.

Thank You

This is the sample of our **MAINS PERIODICAL**. It will cover Current Affairs with the underlying criteria of Importance and how it can enhance the quality of answers. It would help new comers to master the art of presentation and get a complete 360° analysis at one point. We promise that if you work hard and imbibe the learning from our PERIODICAL, you will surely succeed in **MAIN EXAMINATION**.

One has to score good in GS to get a Top Rank – and to achieve this you have to have better understanding of the topics so that you can connect things multi-dimensionally.

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